

Spectrum

LIBRARY MAKES READING FUN

Bonnie Heater
Signal staff

The Woodworth Consolidated Library Summer Reading Program celebrated with a carnival for children and their parents July 9.

The library's summer reading program is now in its 10th year. Each year more exciting activities are added not only to encourage children to read, but to foster stronger bonds between parents and their children. This year's theme is "Catch the Reading Bug!"

Early exposure to reading encourages and promotes a love of learning in children and higher success rates in school, according to Joyce Daniels, the children's program director at the post library. The program kicked off June 4 and runs through July 30, she said. Each Wednesday there's a different event for children ages 2-15 years old to participate in.

Carnival Day was held at the post library on Rice Road. The event provided both competitive and noncompetitive events.

There were prizes for everyone who participated. In the competitive events prizes consisted of Signal Theater movie tickets and tickets to participate in activities at the Gordon Lanes Bowling Center and Hilltop Riding Stables. The competitive events included: sack races for toddlers to 5 year olds; the egg walk for 6 to 9 year olds and broad jumping for 10 to 14 year olds. Jump rope and football throwing competitive events were open to any child.

In the noncompetitive events children could play croquet, toss big beach balls to one another or tryout a hula hoop. Children age 1 to 5 years olds jumped up and down on the mini trampoline

while being closely supervised by a member of the library staff or a volunteer. I had five library staff members helping me set up for the carnival and supervise the children, said Daniels.

Children took turns climbing into the roller chamber where they were gently rolled around the post library's green, mowed lawn. There was face painting. Infants and children up to age 5 could catch toy ducks in the duck pond. Ducks with a specially marked black dot earned a child a prize. [The library staff made sure all the ducks had a black dot so every child would receive a prize.]

Each child received a decorated bag to fill with prizes of candies and small toys for participating in noncompetitive fun activities.

"This year's carnival was the largest yet," said Daniels. "Our summer reading program is such a success because of the parents. I want to thank all of parents for supporting this program."

There are several events planned for the Woodworth Library's summer read program. The Southeastern National Science Academy is bringing out the Phinzy SwampMobile at 11 a.m. July 23.

This is an opportunity to help your children discover what makes the wetlands special, said Daniels.

A cook-out and party is slated for 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 30 at Hilltop Riding Stables on post. This will be the last event in this year's summer reading program.

For additional information or to volunteer to help at these upcoming activities, contact Joyce Daniels at (706) 791-7323 or 791-4662.

(Right) David White, the reference librarian at the post library and volunteer supervisor for the event's croquet game, notices how skillfully Zoe handles the big mallet. She is the 3-year old daughter of Lt. Col. Randy Carlson of the 7th Signal Command and his wife Mary.

(Below) Ciaran Carlile assists Joyce Daniels, the children's program coordinator for the post library, in determining how an egg should be worn on the head to move through the egg walk contest during the library's summer reading program Carnival Day. She is the youngest daughter of Siobhan and Tori Carlile.



A participant in the broad jumping event prepares to beat Mariah Baptiste's record of 6 feet 2 inches during summer library activities.



Photos by Bonnie Heater

(Above) Brandy Bramlett, a volunteer, paints Stephanie Hernandez's face at the library's Carnival Day held July 9 at the post library. She is the 4-year-old daughter of Martha Hernandez. **(Below)** Jennifer Jimenez shows her son Matthew, age 2, how to use a wind toy which he had just won.



(Far left) Michelle Ayala, age 7, the daughter of Chief Warrant Officer Jesus Ayala and Linette, shows how easy hula hooping can be. **(Left)** Zoe Carlson examines the various prizes before selecting one for herself. **(Below)** Ciara Bramlett, age 14 months, the daughter of Brandy Bramlett, searches for a specially marked duck in the duck pond to win a prize.

